

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COUNCIL

SUMMATION OF MINUTES  
TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2008

I. **Introduction and Comments**

Members present:

Jesse Strycker

Carl Zager

Suzann Owen

Duane Busick

Eric Ost came in after roll call

Others present:

Justin Goodwin

Michael White

Rick Dietz

**Public:**

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Busick motioned to approve the March 4, 2008 minutes. Owen seconded.  
Minutes approved, with changes made to official record. 4-0-1.

**Old Business**

#### **IV. Public Comment**

No one from the public was present.

#### **Reports and Announcements**

##### **A). BTC Members**

The 2008 election of TCC officers was discussed at the work session. The TCC came to agreement that Carl Zager was appointed as Chairman and the Vice-President is Jesse Strycker. There was never a certain title for the third person made at the work session, other than possibly Vice-Chair or second Vice-President. Busick asked for a second, Strycker seconded.

All in favor. 4-0-1.

Busick suggested setting up a work session to divvy up the different areas of responsibility. Owen stated the general areas it can be divided into are emergency alerts, public concerns, the continued relationship with video service providers and the relationship with the IURC. Owen stated that it should be inclusive enough that the heading is called video service providers with subsections of the different video service providers detailed by name. Owen stated that the PEG Channels should be a separate section so they can be addresses separately from the other problems. Busick stated that he thought the state franchise adoption and the IURC should be included together in their own section and that the transition from Insight to Comcast should have their own section as well. Dietz offered assistance to the council and Owen stated that the TCC needs to be using Dietz as a resource. A work session was set up for Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> in the McCloskey Room from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Zager stated that override issues have been one of his major interests over the last eighteen months and wanted lay out what he believes to be the current situation and wanted to share his thoughts and open it up for discussion. Under the previous agreement the video service provider agreed to provide the city and the county with the option of interrupting cable programming for local emergencies and in addition to that they were also following the FCC guidelines. Zager stated that when the state franchising came into effect it was to the TCC's understanding that the piece of the franchise that provided the local override was not included in the state law but there was every indication given by Insight that since the relationship was established that the overrides would continue through local dispatch. AT&T gave no such assurances. Zager stated that it is to his understanding that AT&T has never given an EAS alert or a local override alert. In December 2007 AT&T applied to the FCC for a waiver until July 2008 from doing the override alerts. Strycker asked about the override that WTIU had requested and what legal step was required. Ost stated that in order for an on air cable provider to be exempt from the local alerts they have to qualify for this and have an agreement from the local authority. WTIU qualified for this request at that time, Channel 30, because they were doing EAS alerts and this made their exempt request viable.

Busick stated that he thinks that residents who will have no access to emergency alerts should carry more weight with the FCC or the IURC and in turn be a requirement for a rural resident to be able to receive the alert for a tornado or severe weather.

##### **B.) CATS**

**The report is in the official record.**

White presented the monthly report to the council.

White stated that PEG Channels have the same protection as premium channels but PEG Channels are treated as a lesser of the two types of channels for some reason. Ost stated that he agreed that premium channels are held above PEG but that this is

incorrect. White stated that PEG being moved high up on the channel dial makes no sense since a customer will have to search and search for the channel high up on the tier. White stated that UVerse is being rolled through in the more prominent neighborhoods but tornados hit areas that are not as prominent and that AT&T has made a really bad mistake in choosing to offer their services in the way that they are and that they will rethink this.

#### **C.) Bloomington Digital Underground**

Owen asked Dietz for an update on the charter. Dietz stated that the status was that he did turn the proposal over to Kevin Robling and hopes to get an answer over the coming weeks from Mr. Robling regarding the text.

#### **D.) WTIU/TIU2**

**The report is in the official record.**

No one from WTIU/TIU2 was present. They are only required to attend meetings on a quarterly basis. Zager presented the report to the council.

#### **E.) Comcast**

No one from Comcast was present. They are not required to attend due to the franchise being at the State level.

Zager stated the switch over from Insight to Comcast has not gone well and believes that it has completely overwhelmed Comcast. Zager stated he hopes that customer service issue is resolved. Busick stated the complaints used to be that calling the call center from Louisville fro Insight and he had the privilege of speaking with a call center out of Ontario, Canada. The CSR was unable to assist Busick so was transferred to Fort Wayne, IN to another CSR to get his problem resolved. Ost stated that he always got a local CSR here in Bloomington when calling into Insight and the change in the law has really made dealing with Comcast distressing. Zager stated that the customer service issue that Comcast has can be dealt with through the IURC.

#### **F.) AT&T**

No one from AT&T was present.

### **III. Old Business**

Reelection of TCC officers.

### **IV. New Business**

### **V. Adjournment**

The next official meeting of the Telecommunications Council is set for Tuesday May 13, 2008 at 7:30 in the City Council Chambers